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Agriculture Policy Support Project: Partnerships and Impacts on Educating Public and Private Stakeholders on the Plants and Fertilizer Act, 2010 (Act 803)

**Accra, October 25th 2016/COP APSP/USAID EG Knowledge Management and Learning
Event**



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PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Main Goal

To improve the food security enabling environment for private sector investment

Purposes of APSP

To increase the capacity of the GOG, the private sector, and civil society organizations to implement evidence-based policy formation, implementation, research and advocacy and perform rigorous monitoring and evaluation of agricultural programs implemented under the METASIP





APSP' MANDATE TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT 803

- Enhance the implementation of improved policies, regulations, and administrative procedures as outlined by GoG-endorsed policy documents
- Improve policies that enable the private sector to develop, commercialize and use improved agricultural inputs to increase smallholder productivity and incomes

Given that the development of a vibrant seed industry in Ghana is a GoG's and Mission's priority, APSP has partnered with MoFA to undertake several activities to ENHANCE and IMPROVE the implementation of the:

PLANTS AND FERTILIZER ACT, 2010 (ACT 803)





ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY APSP SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT 803

- Technical assistance to MoFA (PPRSD/DCS) to harmonize Seed Regulations to ECOWAS Protocols
- TA to develop/adjust a Procedures Manual for Variety Release
- TA to develop/adjust a Manual for Seed Certification and Accreditation
- TA to develop Seed Licensing contracts
- APSP has trained targeted staff in the TVRC Secretariat on the theoretical components of activities in evaluating varieties and in seed certification
- APSP has trained staff of the GSID on the procedures for seed certification and accreditation

- APSP trained members of the Technical Variety Release Committee on the implementation of the Variety Release Manual
- APSP trained researchers (NARIs) in the implementation of seed licensing contracts to promote production of foundation seeds
- Through grant support from APSP, CRI is currently conducting a research to assess readiness of local research organizations to conduct DUS and VCU assessments.
- APSP has conducted a training with members of the National Seed Council to empower them with knowledge on their responsibilities with regard to the implementation of Act 803, especially regarding the development of the seed industry in Ghana.

On the advocacy side with regard to supporting the implementation of Act 803, there are 2 activities:

- ✓ Establishment of the National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NASTAG) to spearhead and advocate for policy reforms leading to the modernization of the seed industry
- ✓ Sensitization and training events on Act 803 > **FOCUS** of this presentation





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PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT 803

- Back in July 2014, MoFA requested APSP *“to build the capacity of stakeholders implementing Act 803 and its Regulations and to sensitize stakeholders and the general public”*.
- In order to respond to this specific demand, APSP engaged and collaborated with MoFA and with the West Africa Fertilizer Program to conduct a series of sensitization events in different regions of Ghana, so public and private stakeholders are presented with detail accounts of the content of the Act and based on that knowledge, learn about each other’s roles and responsibilities.



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PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT 803

- APSP is collaborating with FtF ATT to continue supporting the Northern Ghana Seed Platform as a major scenario that allows NASTAG to meet other seed industry stakeholders and discuss all matters leading to the uptake and use of improved seeds
- APSP and BUSAC have agreed to provide grant support to NASTAG to consolidate the functioning of this nascent organization, in a way that funding will not duplicate activities and impacts will be enhanced



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PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT 803

- Based on the Training of Trainers events on Act 803 that APSP conducted twice, participant NGOs were enthused to apply to APSP's grants to conduct trainings on Act 803 at the community level, thus expanding the geographical coverage of this sensitization effort and reaching out to larger numbers of beneficiaries
- These activities are facilitating the implementation of the law and more significantly, building up the skills and knowledge of public and private sector stakeholders to advocate for policy reforms and to promote the implementation of Act 803 as a tool to support the development of the agriculture sector in Ghana.



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FOCUSING ON THE SENSITIZATION/TRAINING ACTIVITIES ON ACT 803

- Four sensitization events in Koforidua, Kumasi, Tamale and Takoradi for over 200 agriculture sector public and private stakeholders leaders, representing farmers' organizations, input dealers, MoFA staff, security agencies and NGOs from all over Ghana.
- Two of these events were designed as Training of Trainers workshops, so other organizations take on expanding this knowledge at the community level.
- Printed 1,500 copies of the Law for MoFA for national distribution, as part of the public education and sensitization exercise



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FOCUSING ON THE SENSITIZATION/TRAINING ACTIVITIES ON ACT 803

- Four Ghanaian NGOS have completed or are completing community-level sensitization and trainings on Act 803 through grant support from APSP.
- These grant activities have involved 14 districts in the Northern and Central regions of Ghana, benefiting close to 1800 farmers, agro input dealers and public sector officers from MoFA, other MDAs, including MoFA officers and Agriculture Extension Agents, Customs, Policy, Fire Service and Immigration officers, among others.
- Grantees have implemented radio discussions on the law, community meetings, specific trainings with members of the agriculture value chain, including farmers and agro input dealers



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WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF THESE TRAININGS AS ASSESSED BY BENEFICIARIES

APSP has conducted a post-activity evaluation of some of these events and what follows is a summary of the impacts of these trainings as assessed by beneficiaries:

- MoFA has for the first time since Act 803 was enacted, being able to reach out to the regions and communities with information on the objectives and purposes of the law
- Public and Private stakeholders are now better prepared to comply with the Act and have a better understanding of their specific roles and responsibilities.



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WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF THESE TRAININGS AS ASSESSED BY BENEFICIARIES

- Participants at the training events are now realizing that knowledge on the law and compliance with its content, paves the way for improving agriculture performance through better information on the used of improved seeds, fertilizers, safe handling of agrochemicals and other safety measures, certification processes, registration of commercial activity in the distribution of inputs, labeling, etc.
- For several participants, especially farmers and even agro input dealers, these trainings provided them with the chance to know for the first time, that that there is a law in Ghana that oversees the area of plants and fertilizer.
- Evidence from meeting with beneficiaries from such districts as Mion and Yendi in the Northern Ghana region, show the following:





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WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF THESE TRAININGS AS ASSESSED BY BENEFICIARIES

Farmers:

- The training on the use of agrochemicals has informed us of the need to consult with AEAs for advise on managing pest infestations
- The training on the processes involved to commercialize certified seeds, made us realize the difference between grains and seeds for planting purposes
- We realized that by using improved seeds, we can increase productivity without necessarily expanding our acreage
- Now because of the training, we need to be in the look out for faked and/or adulterated agrochemicals and fertilizers.
- Now we have been trained and informed on safe handling of agrochemicals, including using protective clothing



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WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF THESE TRAININGS AS ASSESSED BY BENEFICIARIES

Agro input dealers:

- We have improved our knowledge of the law and the training make us realize that we face unfair competition from other input suppliers that do not register with PPRSD.
- The trainings have improved our knowledge on quarantine regulations, especially when it comes with importing either plants and/or animal products in Ghana and realized about its importance to manage risks
- Now we understand that registering with MoFA can gives a competitive edge in our business operations and we will make sure that farmers know that we are registered dealers
- Based on the training, now we have the opportunity to identify adulterated agrochemicals or fake fertilizer, as per the labelling and registrations requirements





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WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF THESE TRAININGS AS ASSESSED BY BENEFICIARIES

- Some of us, didn't exactly manage or know about the importance of safety measures when handling agrochemicals
- Some agro input dealers tried to sell farmers protective clothes for handling agrochemicals, but the cost of these items were beyond the capacity of farmers to buy them.
- Trainings on the law has helped us to better market our products and now we are in the position to provide technical advise to our clients on the inputs they need and on the safe handling of agrochemicals



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Agriculture Extension Agents (AEAs):

- Until these trainings, we have never received training or information on Act 803.
- The training have enhanced our knowledge of the Act and has improved our skills to advise farmers on better agricultural practices, including the use of improved seeds, fertilizers and the handling of agrochemicals
- The training that we have received on the processes and fees involved in the registration of seeds, fertilizers and agrochemicals, has made us realize the need for input dealers to comply with the law
- For us as AEAs is important to know Act 803 empowers us with being law compliance officers.



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For Security Agents:

- Until this training, we had no knowledge whatsoever on the existence of Act 803
- Based on the trainings, members of the Fire Service have trained farmers on the managing of bush fire and safe handling of fertilizers



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CONCLUSIONS

- Trainings on the content and objectives of Act 803 became lessons by themselves on AES delivery.
- AEAs report the enthusiasm and proactive response from farmers when receiving their advise, conveying the importance of AE delivery for improving productivity and raising incomes
- Accounts from participants at the events, demonstrate critical gaps in GAP among smallholder farmers, including gaps and knowledge on the use of improved seeds, fertilizers and on the safe use of agrochemicals.





CONCLUSIONS

- Farmers, agro input dealers and even district level authorities, including AEAs, had minimal knowledge of the law, which in general hinders its implementation across the board.
- MoFA and District-level agric authorities have real budgetary challenges to increase AE delivery and to train sector stakeholders in the content, objectives, roles and responsibilities of Act 803.
- Basic as it might look, furthering knowledge on Act 803 will go a long way to improving smallholder productivity, increase incomes and expand private sector investments into the sector
- Adequate implementation of the law, including regulations, procedures, manuals and compliance, has the capacity to improve agriculture practices, promoting sustainability.





WAY FORWARD

- Grantees and beneficiaries indicate that they need more training on the handling of agrochemicals
- Grantees and beneficiaries indicate that more training is also needed in the labelling of agro inputs, especially to detect adulterated products
- Trainings on Act 803 should be extended to more communities around the country
- PPRSD should take representatives from different communities and engage them in “massive” Training of Trainers on Act 803, so the trainees expand knowledge back in their communities.
- APSP has introduced these trainings on a limited basis, but the approach could be replicated by the GoG and other development partners





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